

SECTION 5 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DES MOINES AND RACCOON RIVERS FEASIBILITY STUDY DES MOINES, IOWA

I have reviewed the information in this Integrated Environmental Assessment, along with data obtained from federal and state agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and from the interested public. I find that the construction of 500-year levees at Birdland and Central Place and the closure structures in downtown Des Moines would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The preferred alternative is the most feasible and practicable alternative to meet the project goals. Therefore, it is my determination that an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

Alternatives considered along with the preferred action were:

Reach 1 Birdland Park

No Action

Birdland Alignment 1, Levees 100-, 250-, and 500-year

Birdland Alignment 2, Levees 100- and 250-year

Birdland Alignment 3, Levees 100-, 250-, and 500-year

Reach 2 Central Place

No Action

Levees 100- and 250-year

Reach 3 Downtown East

No Action

Raise existing 100-year levee to 500 year level of protection

Reach 4 Downtown West

No Action

Raise existing 100-year levee to 500 year level of protection

Reach 5 Downtown South

No Action

Raise existing 100-year levee to 500 year level of protection

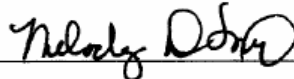
Factors considered in making the determination that an EIS is not required are as follows:

- Approximately 2.8 to 4.6 acres of emergent wetlands will be created, 2.7 to 3.8 acres of open water will be created, and 2.6 acres of bottomland forest will be enhanced to offset the loss of the 1.4 to 2.3 acres of emergent wetland loss, 2.7 to 3.8 acres of permanent open water loss, and 1.4 acres of bottomland forested losses from levee reconstruction. Mitigation acreages will increase proportionally as needed to ensure adequate compensation for project impacts.
- Implementation of the preferred alternative would involve approximately 4.6 acres of upland forest impacts. Approximately 8.6 acres of upland forest is proposed to be planted in order to mitigate for those impacts.

- The proposed project would not significantly affect either water quality of the Des Moines River or cultural/historic resources.
- The proposed project will be further evaluated during the plans and specifications phase to determine the effect on federally listed endangered or threatened species. The District will coordinate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as required in the Endangered Species Act if there is potential for negative effects to the Bald eagle and the Indiana bat. There will be no effect on state listed endangered or threatened species.
- Approximately 13 - 16 acres of farmland would be converted to emergent wetland and upland forest; this conversion is consistent with existing Natural Resources Conservation Service programs.
- The proposed project has identified and taken into account cumulative impacts and would not cumulatively exceed any known biological or social threshold.
- The Corps consulted with the State Historic Society of Iowa (SHSI), relevant Federally recognized tribes, and the interested public regarding this undertaking's potential effects on historic properties and particularly tribal concerns about properties that may be of religious and cultural significance (36CFR800.4(a)(3-4)). The SHSI concurred with the Corps determination of "No Effect" by letter dated August 9, 2004 and recommended a determination of "No Adverse Effect" for the remainder of the Area of Potential Effect (R&C#: 000377008). No additional historic properties or concerns were identified as a result of that consultation. The Otoe-Missouria Tribe notified the Corps by letter dated August 26, 2004 that they had no knowledge of properties within the project "Area of Potential Effect" but that they would like to be notified in the event of inadvertent discoveries during project construction. No additional historic properties or concerns were identified as a result of the consultation. It is the opinion of the Corps that this undertaking is in full compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800: "Protection of Historic Properties."

7 Sep 05

(Date)



for DUANE P. GAPINSKI
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer